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was the most ancient seat of the Hellenic race." It is hazardous to assert that this statement about Thesprotia is not found in the works of so voluminous a writer as Aristotle; but it has at any rate escaped the notice of H. Bonitz, the laborious compiler of the Berlin Index. Aristotle does indeed say that ancient Hellas is *ἡ περὶ Δωδώνην καὶ τὸν Ἀχελῷον*; but there is no mention of Thesprotia in that passage, and Kiepert places Dodona in Molossis. On the next page in the description of the Peloponnesus we are told that it is "traversed from north to south by two rugged ranges of mountains radiating from Mount Pindus." How this can be so, since we have learned on p. 36 that Pindus "divides Epirus on the west from Thessaly on the east," is not explained. Another curious geographical statement is found on p. 37. "The romantic vale of Tempe, through which the Peneius escapes into the sea between Mounts Pelion and Ossa, is perhaps the most enchanting spot in Greece." The fervor of this and the subsequent description suggests that the author must himself have visited this scene, and therefore his statements may be taken as those of an eye-witness. But Kiepert's chart makes the Peneius issue between Olympus on the north and Ossa on the south, and places Pelion still further south of Ossa. Can it be either that the river has made for itself a new outlet or that the mountains have changed their places since the surveys were made on which Kiepert's map is based? It may be thought that these criticisms are trivial, and that it is ungracious thus to call attention to what are probably oversights and accidental blemishes in a work which may notwithstanding be on the whole a clear and readable narrative of the story of Greece. When however they are considered in connection with the fact before noticed, that the author has throughout his work compelled his readers to rely almost solely on his own narrative and abstained from giving them an easy means of testing his accuracy, and has besides in his preface challenged comparison with Grote on the ground of his superior fidelity to the ancient authorities, it will be felt that the mention of them is not irrelevant.

The book is written in a plain and unaffected style, which does not need the apology which the writer makes for it. It is by no means heavy reading, and if it were relieved of the pretentiousness of the preface and subjected throughout to a revision which should make the exactness of its statements approximate more nearly to that of Grote's, it might be recommended as giving in a moderate compass a readable narrative of the whole history of Greece from the earliest times to the present.

C. D. MORRIS.

Mittelhochdeutsche Grammatik von HERMANN PAUL. Halle, 1881.

Kleine Mittelhochdeutsche Grammatik von KARL WEINHOLD. Wien, 1881.

The first is volume II of the 'Sammlung kurzer Grammatiken Germanischer Dialecte.' It is intended to serve a three-fold purpose: as an introduction to Middle High German for the beginner in Germanic philology; as a text-book in the Gymnasium, and to supply the wants of all who would read and study M. H. G. literature. The first purpose is best served, the sixty-nine pages being about evenly divided between 'lautlehre' and 'flexionslehre.' The only defect

in this regard is, that the M. H. G. sounds are not treated systematically and independently of the New High German. Instead of this we have chapter III on the relation of M. H. G. sounds to the N. H. G., treated particularly with a view to the wants of the general reader and the gymnasium student. Chapter IV on 'lautwechsel' is admirable. It emphasizes analogy in the development of sounds and forms, and treats scientifically of 'umlaut,' 'ablaut,' the relation between *e* and *i*, *o* and *u*, 'grammatische wechsel,' assimilation and gemination. For the student of comparative grammar the references to the latest investigations might be more numerous. The distinction between the infinitive in *-an* and the gerund in *-en* (§ 145) needs an explanation or a reference, say to Kögel, Keronisches Glossar, p. 145-6, and to our modern so-called 'present participle' in 'ein zu liebendes Kind.' The relation between *o* and *u* is not made very clear in § 38. He says 'die nächste Grundlage ist immer *u* und *o* daraus abgeleitet.' Is every *o* 'brechung' of *u*? Why not give the double origin of *o-u* which he alludes to? That of *e-i* is given. The ablaut is treated in certain series called 'ablaufsreihen,' six in number. They run parallel with Braune's in his Gothic grammar. They are the very latest results, which, let us hope, will not prove mere speculations to be set aside in the next number of Paul and Braune's Beiträge. *Nasalis* and *liquida sonans*, which play an important rôle in the establishment of these ablaut-series, have just been formidably attacked in the 'Beiträge,' vol. VIII, 1, by Kögel, who had once accepted them.

The dialectic variations have been collected in one chapter, where they cannot confuse the beginner. The pronunciation received thorough treatment in § 6. We must remark again, as we did with regard to Braune's 'gotische grammatik,' upon the nearly total lack of anything like syntax or function or use of forms. Just in these the beginner finds great difficulties, because in a very short time the M. H. G. forms and spelling will be familiar to him. In this respect Weinhold's grammar is far superior. I refer to § 165-172 on the uses of the adjective declensions, to § 129-133 on the compound tenses.

Weinhold's grammar is a new edition of the short grammar in his reader (Wien, 1875), which is brought up to the standard of his large grammar (Paderborn, 1877). Weinhold is more conservative than the 'junggrammatiker' Paul, Braune, Sievers, and does not venture to embody the latest theories of the double or triple Indo-European *a*-series in a text-book. He still retains the *a*, *i*, *u* ablaut series, and does not go beyond the splitting of primitive *a* into European *e* and *o*. Of 100 pages only 33 are devoted to a very systematic and clear phonology, that does not start with N. H. G. sounds.

Grundriss der neuisländischen Grammatik von WILLIAM H. CARPENTER.
Leipzig, 1881.

This is the first systematic grammar of modern Icelandic. A few treatises and occasional statements in grammars of Old Norse and in dictionaries were the only sources of information. Even this grammar the author intends as a pendant to Wimmer's 'Oldnordisk Formlära,' upon which it is based. § 1-6, treating of the letters and their pronunciation, would have been more serviceable had they been based upon the analysis of Icelandic sounds given in